On August 1, 2019, officials from the LACDA celebrated the ribbon cutting for the City of Covina’s new Senior and Community Center.

The single-story wood frame building provides services, events, and activities for the residents of the Covina community. Nearly half of the building is dedicated to enriching the lives of seniors through a variety of services such as nutrition, health information, recreation classes, life-long-learning opportunities, and special events.

To complement the services, the center includes a kitchen, fitness center, multipurpose rooms, classrooms, and a courtyard. The LACDA provided more than $693,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and $2.5 million from the Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program, leveraged with $5.2 million in City funding to finance the demolition, design, and construction of the new center.

The City of Covina has collaborated with the LACDA to deliver CDBG-funded projects and programs to their residents for more than 40 years.

On September 13, 2019, the LACDA joined PATH Ventures in celebrating their 14th Annual Jazz Night. As part of the event, the LACDA was honored for their partnership and dedication to serving Los Angeles County communities. With a partnership of 17 years, the LACDA and PATH Ventures continue to expand their reach and give individuals and families experiencing homelessness the opportunity for affordable, permanent supportive housing. Currently, there are three projects in the pipeline – PATH Villas at South Gate, PATH Villas Montclair, and West Carson Villas.

The LACDA is committing $23.5 million to the upcoming projects and once completed, the LACDA and PATH Ventures will have partnered on a total production of 432 housing units. The recognition of LACDA at the Annual Jazz Night acknowledged the strides the agency has made to combat homelessness, and emphasized the value in collaborative work.
In July 2019, the LACDA enhanced its policies for rental assistance programs to improve accessibility for assisted families and persons experiencing homelessness. The LACDA made a major policy shift to its homeless preference, strategically expanding it to serve homeless families who are moving-on from a transitional or Los Angeles County funded permanent supportive housing setting. The LACDA can now collaborate with Los Angeles County departments and non-profits to ensure families that recently transitioned remain housed. Further, the homeless preference now permits LACDA to prioritize HCV assistance to include homeless families or individuals that are eligible for a Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Emergency Transfer from an LACDA rental housing program.

The LACDA is proud to make its housing programs more accessible to those who need them most.

On August 29, 2019, the LACDA joined the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), City of Long Beach Councilmember Al Austin, and Herlinda Chico representing the office of the Chair of the Board, Supervisor Janice Hahn to celebrate a $1 million Lead-Based Paint Capital Fund Grant awarded to the LACDA. The event was also supported by the offices of Congressman Alan Lowenthal and the City of Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia.

Overall, HUD is providing more than $28 million to 38 Public Housing Agencies in 25 states. These funds will target approximately 2,800 public housing units in the United States and help to identify and reduce lead-based paint hazards, provided through HUD’s Public Housing Capital Fund. In Los Angeles County, the awarded funds will help rehabilitate the interior and exterior of units at the Carmelitos Public Housing Community. This will positively impact 194 children under the age of six living at this community.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR SAFER HOUSING

MAXIMIZING HOMELESS SERVICES

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On July 17, 2019, the Los Angeles County Community Development Foundation (LACDF) awarded $28,000 in Housing Authority Resident (HAR) Scholarships to 28 public housing and Section 8 participants attending a four-year university, community college, or vocational program. Awardees were recognized during the Sixth Annual Reality Check Conference held at The California Endowment in Los Angeles.

The one-day conference, held exclusively for participants of the LACDA pursuing higher education, focused on life skills, workshops, career panels, and educational resources. Scholarship recipients included top high school graduates and first generation college students aspiring to succeed in their chosen careers. Several of the graduates are pursuing studies with the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields. Attendees participated in workshops held by the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, Kaiser Permanente, Project SOAR, and Alma Family Services.

Since 1997, nearly $350,000 in scholarships have been awarded by the LACDF. Scholarship funds are made possible through the generous donations of the California Community Foundation, Edison International, and the employees of the LACDA.